1: Linton E-5 (1926-27) 1933 FY8 Tanala FY8

horns and vault over his head, alighting on one's feet. The present natives say that the sport was designed to give the young men a chance to exhibit their strength and agility, but its almost exclusive association with funerals suggests that it may once have had a deeper significance. A good bull baiter enjoyed considerable prestige and there were numerous charms to insure success in the sport. 541 [764]

Watching fighting bulls seems to have been a commoner sport among the Ikongo than among the Menabe. There, villages would pit their best bulls against each other and wager heavily on the outcome. The men of the two villages would line up on opposite sides of the arena and beat the ground with heavy sticks to encourage their bulls. Excitement ran high and the meets often broke up in a fight.

In order to incite the bulls a young heifer was sometimes led up. Another method was to collect ticks filled with blood from the bulls themselves. A small patch of ground in the center of the arena was torn up as though bulls had been fighting there and the blood from the ticks squeezed out on it. It is said that when the most cowardly bull saw and smelled this he would stand and give battle.

Goats are much less numerous than cattle and several of the Tanala gentes have taboos on raising them. The few animals I saw were large and shaggy, with long, well-developed horns. Most of them were black, but with a few black and white individuals. Goats are never milked and rarely killed for meat. As far as I could learn, they are never employed for sacrifices, although the gentes who raise them have no taboo against this. 231

Chickens are numerous in all villages and are the main source of fresh meat. No breeds are recognized and those I saw were of all sizes and colors. They are fed with the refuse of the rice pounding, but have to forage for most of their food and are, in consequence, lean and athletic. Eggs are considered a delicacy. Nests are made for the hens by splitting and spreading one end of a six-foot section of large bamboo, interweaving other bamboo splints to form a crude basket (Fig. 2, b). This is lined with straw. The nests are planted in the ground close to the sides of the dwelling. The overhanging eaves protect them from rain, while the smoothness and height of the bamboo give protection from snakes and other vermin. Sitting hens are usually kept in a corner of the dwelling. Hens with chicks are brought into the house every night until the young are old enough to fly. Grown birds roost on the roofs or in low trees. There are no wild chickens. 235• 262

782 [437] Chickens are much used for small sacrifices, such as those made in fulfilment of vows. Usually only the head and feet are actually offered, the rest being eaten by the sacrificer. They are also largely used in payment of fees to midwives, circumcisers and medicine-men. [541] Cock fighting, which is an important sport in the plateau, seems to be rare or lacking among the Tanala.

235 *Dokotra*, the large native ducks, are valued much more than chickens and can be bought only at exorbitant prices. They are relatively rare and I never saw more than four or five in a village. Their eggs are considered a great delicacy. They usually sleep and nest in the dwelling.

PETS

231 The Tanala are moderately fond of pets. The *angidimbo*, an animal much like an ordinary tabby cat in size, color and general appearance, is sometimes caught young and tamed. It is allowed to run free and helps to keep down rats and mice. The natives say it does not breed in captivity. Apparently it will cross with the ordinary domestic cat, a recent introduction, but I could not learn whether the offspring are fertile.

In nearly all the villages I saw pet lemurs. Three or four species were represented, a medium-sized gray animal and the large black and white lemur being the commonest. They were always kept tethered by a band around the waist. They seemed to be imperfectly tamed, although this may have been partly due to my being a white man. However, I never saw a native attempt to fondle one and I was often warned that they would bite.

In the southern part of the Menabe territory I saw a few birds kept in cages of open wicker work. These were usually hung up outside, under the eaves of the houses, but I saw one fastened to the top of a long pole. The birds were small and looked like larks or thrushes. Although parrots are common in this region, they do not seem to be kept as pets.

HUNTING

224 [136] The heavy forests of the Tanala country contain many sorts of small game but the only large species are the wild pig and *fosa*, a cat-like carnivor related to the genets. These will attack a human being when cornered, but are not dangerous ordinarily. There are a few Tanala families who live in the forest and subsist entirely on game and wild plants, but they are not numerous. There are no hunting tribes and no individually owned hunting territories. The

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Pls. 5. Hunting and Fishing. a, Lower Deer's Foot. b, Deer's Foot. c, Bat Drag. d, Fish Spear, Ancient Type. e, Modern Dip Net. f, Dip Net. g, Hunting Knife. h, i, Bat Blades.